

Fall 2014

# CEBS Magazine: The College of Education and Behavioral Sciences at WKU, Fall 2014

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# CEBS

THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES  
WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

## MAGAZINE

FALL / WINTER  
2014 - 2015

# Leadership through Service





# Message from *the* Dean



It is a pleasure to share this issue of the CEBS Magazine with you. Our students, faculty, and staff have and continue to serve as leaders in a variety of ways, and their leadership is positively impacting others through the development and implementation of innovative initiatives and through their scholarly endeavors. The knowledge base and skills necessary for success as leaders is evident in the on-going activities within the college and the accompanying learning environments. These learning environments are impactful and not only help ensure the success of our students and graduates but also influence their career choices in a positive way.

Success builds upon fulfilling learning experiences and careers. The decision of Rebekah Pribula, a recent graduate, to work with individuals who have special needs is an example of how an international experience connected with her major in Special Education led Rebecca to work with children who have exceptional needs in a remote region of Ecuador. Her passion for providing service to others and creating opportunities where they did not previously exist will impact the lives of many individuals, both now and in the future. Likewise, the opportunities and mentoring that the late Dr. Page Talley experienced as a student at WKU in the early 1950s lead to his successful and fulfilling career as a university professor focusing on marriage counseling. Dr. Talley's vision for providing quality training experiences for counseling interns was shared by his wife Betty. Through their combined vision and leadership, the Talley Family Counseling Center in CEBS provides invaluable learning opportunities for our students

while delivering services to children, youth, and adults in the larger university community.

Our capacity to provide leadership in service to others is being expanded through our quest to establish a Doctorate in Psychology degree. Pending approval by SACSCOC, our regional accrediting body, the Department of Psychology will offer the degree with concentrations in Clinical and School Psychology. Students enrolled in the PsyD program, along with all programs across the college, will have opportunities to apply academic concepts to real-world issues and problems. In addition to learning experiences provided through degree programs in the college, various clubs and centers provide students with opportunities to serve others through volunteer activities across the community.

The knowledge and skills that our students gain through their programs of study not only enable them to enter specific careers but also allow them to adapt to future career opportunities and changes within their current careers. Faculty and staff members across the college are committed to helping students fulfill their career goals and are to be commended for their contributions to the success of each student and graduate.

With the beginning of a new year we are looking forward to becoming engaged in new opportunities, enhancing our programs and services to help ensure that our students and graduates have fulfilling learning experiences and careers. Your feedback and support is invaluable in the implementation of our mission and our efforts to achieve the vision of the college.

Best wishes for the New Year.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sam Evans". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "E".

Sam Evans, Dean

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## CEBS MAGAZINE

THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES  
FALL / WINTER 2014-2015

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### About the Covers:

Front Cover - GeoSphere was at WKU as part of International Education Week. See article on page 2.

Back Cover - Upcoming events.

CEBS Magazine is published semiannually for individuals interested in the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences at Western Kentucky University.

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# GeoSphere at WKU as part of International Education Week



The GeoSphere is an extraordinarily unique learning environment. Students enter the 20' inflatable globe, sit on Antarctica, and are given an unparalleled view of our planet. Up to 30 students can fit inside for each lesson. The GeoSphere shows natural vegetation, mountains, water bodies, latitude and longitude, tectonic boundaries and city symbols.

Led by geographer Steve Jansen, 15 to 20 minute lessons were offered on a variety of topics (appropriate to age levels) throughout the week of November 17-20 for International Education Week.

The GeoSphere was located in Downing Student Union's NiteClass room. The event was open to WKU students and faculty, as well as, community members. Several school groups and campus organizations also booked times in the GeoSphere. Over 475 people visited the GeoSphere and learned about topics from The Blue Planet, to Peopling the Planet, or Traveling Through Geologic Time. Dr. Kay Gandy in the School of Teacher Education at WKU was instrumental in bringing the GeoSphere to WKU. She garnered sponsorship from the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, the Office of International Programs, the Campus Activities Board, the Kentucky Geographic Alliance, and the National Geographic Society.



# CEBS CLINIC



Counseling interns and co-directors of the Talley Family Counseling Center (TFCC) had the special privilege of meeting Betty Talley. Betty Talley, and her late husband, Dr. Page Talley generously bequeathed financial support for the training of family counselors. The donations were applied to the WKU Foundation to support the TFCC for counselor training and provide free counseling services to the local community.

Dr. Talley was from Russellville, KY. He was a 1953 graduate of Western Kentucky University. While he was a student at WKU, he had mentors that inspired him to pursue his higher education. He completed a master's degree at University of Mississippi and a doctoral program at University of Miami. Dr. Talley was a professor for Florida Atlantic University for 30 years in addition to having a private practice. His private practice focused on marriage counseling, which was his area of specialty. Dr. Talley treasured his time in Bowling Green as an undergraduate and attributed his time at WKU to pursuing a career in education. He valued education and had a vision of supporting a quality training facility for students in counseling and providing effective counseling services to community members. The TFCC was named after Dr. Talley to honor his dedication to the counseling profession.

Betty Talley attended the University of Mary Washington (UMW) in Fredericksburg, Virginia and obtained her degree in counseling. The Tal-

leys also generously donated support of the Talley Center for Counseling Services located at UMW. Betty Talley is currently the Director of Student Services at Indian River State College in Fort Pierce, Florida. She shares the same vision as her husband in supporting students. Dr. Talley's vision of providing a quality training experience for counseling interns as well as quality services for the community is the mission of the TFCC. During her recent visit, Mrs. Talley toured the TFCC facility located on the first floor of Gary Ransdell Hall. Additionally she was able to spend time sharing delightful stories about her husband and his life.

The Talleys believed positive experiences in counselor training are critical to providing future effective community counselors. The TFCC supports a strong training facility in addition to offering a variety of quality services to the community. Over the past few years, the TFCC has evolved to becoming a state-of-the-art facility to work with families in our community. Recently a digital recording system, Interact, was installed in each clinic room to permit recording and playback of counseling sessions. As interns review their counseling sessions, they are able to identify effective counseling skills and receive clinical supervision from the co-directors.

A variety of counseling services are offered at TFCC. Individual, group, couple, and family counseling are available. Play therapy and expressive art activities are used with children

and adolescents. There are two fully stocked play therapy rooms where children can work on counseling issues in a developmentally appropriate format. For parents needing extra support, we also offer parenting sessions to discuss issues such as positive parenting, discipline, or establishing routines. Parenting sessions can be held during the time the child is receiving play therapy sessions. In addition to offering counseling services at the TFCC, interns have participated in an outreach program. Interns hold individual and adventure based counseling groups in the local school districts and at the Housing Authority of Bowling Green to help students develop social skills. Additionally the interns are working with refugees and staff member training at the International Center of Kentucky.

Students and any community member can receive services, even if they are not affiliated with the university. All services are provided at no cost to the client, and the TFCC does not report to any insurance companies. All client names, information, and sessions are confidential. The TFCC is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays during the school semester. Information or appointments can be obtained by calling 270.745.4204.

More information can be found at [www.wku.edu/talley/counseling](http://www.wku.edu/talley/counseling) or by contacting the co-directors at Cheryl.Wolf@wku.edu or Imelda.Bratton@wku.edu.

# *From Classroom to Orphanage*

## Helping Children in Need

By Katelyn McHenry

I once heard a quote from Steve Jobs that said, “The people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who usually do.” I cannot think of anything more perfect to say about Rebekah Pribula.

The 24-year-old graduated from WKU in May 2013 with a special education degree and a dual certification in Learning and Behavior Disorders (LBD) and Moderate and Severe Disabilities (MSD). She also was on WKU’s co-ed cheer-leading team for three years.

After graduating, Pribula took a job at Warren East High School as a teacher in the Functional Mental Disability (FMD) classroom. After teaching a year, she said she simply did not feel like she was doing what she was being called to do. “Although I loved my job and absolutely loved my students, I couldn’t help but feel a strange disconnect from where I was. By no means did I feel discontentment, but I simply didn’t feel like I was where I needed to be,” she said. She sensed this so much so that in the middle of the night in January 2014 she would constantly wake up praying for people with severe disabilities, not even knowing the people for whom she prayed.

During Pribula’s student teaching semester at WKU, she completed an international student teaching experience in Ecuador. While student teaching in Ecuador, she did not teach at a school that included students with severe disabilities. In fact, she learned

that people with severe disabilities in Ecuador were not included in mainstream schools or classrooms. She discovered that most of the time they were considered a nuisance to society and were abandoned on the side of the roads or worse. This image would never leave Pribula’s mind.

That one horrifying image stayed with her while she was teaching at Warren East High School. Due to her feelings of not fulfilling what she was called to do, she began to research special needs orphanages in Ecuador. Casa de Fe was the first orphanage to pop up on her internet search. It was an orphanage for children who have special needs—children that have been abused and abandoned. She watched video after video and immediately felt inclined to email the director of the orphanage to ask what she could do to possibly be able to come assist and help for a few weeks in the upcoming summer. The idea of visiting the orphanage for a few weeks soon turned into resigning from her job at Warren East and the start of raising funds to volunteer at Casa de Fe for five months.

Pribula said she did not need time to think. She knew this is what she was called to do at this point in her life. She realized this is why she had been repeatedly waking up in the middle of night on her knees praying for these special needs children that she hadn’t even really known she was praying for. “It all sounds extremely

risky and quite frankly unwise, but I knew with everything in me that I wanted to help people in a drastic way while I was young and able to do so,” she said.

“People with disabilities in America have so many opportunities. Therapists come to their schools and homes, they have teachers, and government programs. In other countries like Ecuador, it’s just not that way,” she said.

Pribula is now spending her days living in Shell, Pastaza, Ecuador, which is right outside of the jungle in South America. This town is historically known for “Nate Saint.” Saint and other missionaries were speared to death in their efforts to reach the Huarani tribe in the Amazon jungle. “The legacy of these passionate missionaries still runs strong throughout the town,” she said. There is a school there now called Nate Saint Memorial School. The town built this school for the children of missionaries that still serve here. At the church Pribula attended with her host family, she was informed that some of the men from the Huarani tribe who speared and killed the missionaries sat across the room from her. These men are now redeemed and proclaim their love for Jesus Christ. “This town itself professes God’s glory and the power of his redeeming love,” she said.

Pribula is the only person at Casa de Fe who works with the children with special needs every







day. She helps implement all of the childrens' therapy goals, plays music for them, reads to them, talks to them, and sometimes simply holds them and shows them love and adoration, something all children need the most. "I've learned that the act of physical touch for many of these children with seizures and different deficits helps calm them and give them peace," she said.

Because Pribula is the only person who works with the children every day, the orphanage administrators decided her assistance is needed for a longer period if the children were going to receive the right amount of daily one-on-one attention and therapy. After praying about this, she decided that in order to teach the other Ecuadorian caregivers the positive changes and daily routines that she does every day with the children, she would need to stay in Ecuador longer than she had planned. "After all, the goal of missions trips is to pass the baton to someone else. These caregivers can eventually be doing what I am doing, but right now it is needed for me to stay at least one year to teach them well,

but also to love them well," she said. "I have been given so much love my entire life from my parents, I feel I am able to give that and more in abundance."

Pribula knows her life is different from that of an average 24-year-old, but she states she enjoys every second of it. "If I can spend my young adulthood spreading my knowledge of special education in a way that will better who the world considers "least of these" than I am truly living my life to the fullest," she said.

Pribula concludes by stating, "I feel I am simply being obedient to what I know my calling is right now. Last year that was being a high school FMD teacher. This year it is being a nose wiping, daily hugger, kisser of boo boos, hand stand competitor, dishwashing, Spanish speaking caregiver to sweet jungle babies who have basic care but no one to love and nurture them." She is not completing an easy task. Every day she is courageously embarking on a journey that is way outside her comfort zone to change the lives of innocent children and that, in my

opinion, is what makes her a selfless martyr.

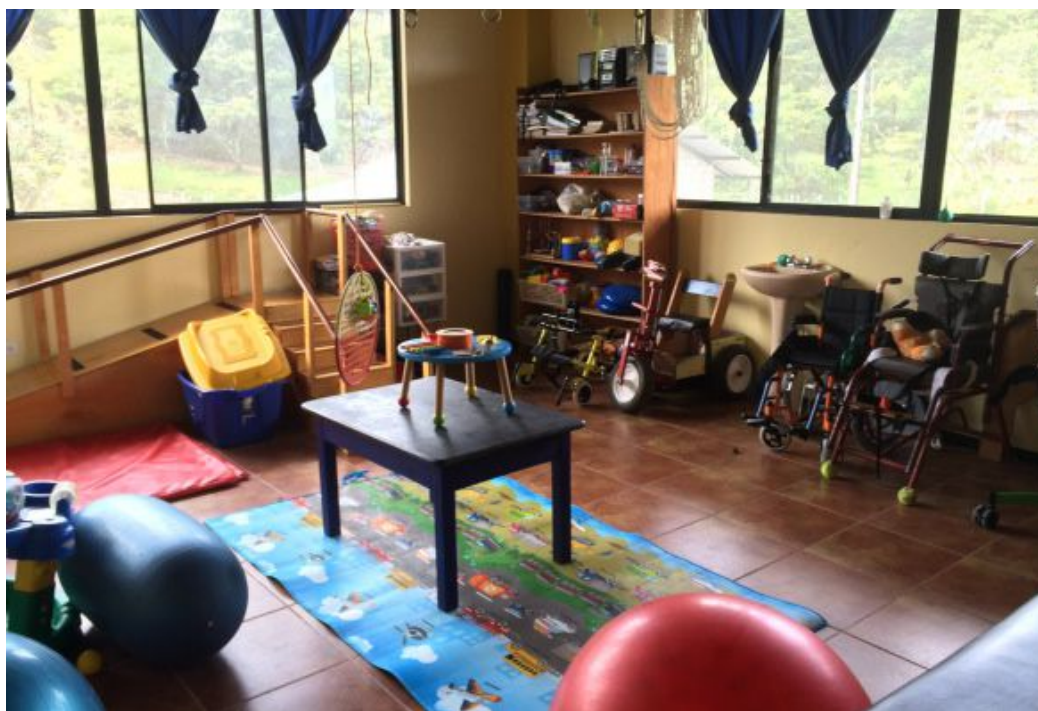
Many people believe that they don't have what it takes to make a difference to the world. Some believe only people like Mahatma Gandhi, Mother Theresa, Thomas Edison, Albert Einstein, Bill Gates, and the likes, are capable of making a difference in our world. The truth is, every one of us is put in this world to contribute and make a difference to the world in our own unique way. It doesn't have to be anything outlandish—just simply knowing how to lend a helping hand and love unconditionally is enough. And Rebekah Pribula humbly proves this through her young and beautiful spirit.

To learn more about the work Pribula is doing in Ecuador, please visit her blog at <http://becausehelives120.wordpress.com/>.

## About the author:



Katelyn McHenry is a junior special education major from Louisville, KY.









## WKU and Vanderbilt Team Up to Offer Film Institute

Vanderbilt University's Center for Latin American Studies and WKU's Office of International Programs partnered to offer a film institute on Latin America for teachers in grades 7-12.

*Through the Lens: Teaching Latin America through Film* is part of OIP's inaugural International Year Of... program to feature Ecuador during the 2014-2015 academic year.

"It is our hope that the institute will help to kick off the yearlong opportunities for the campus and community to experience, engage with, and explore Latin America and specifically, Ecuador," Aarika Hutton, OIP's programming coordinator, said.

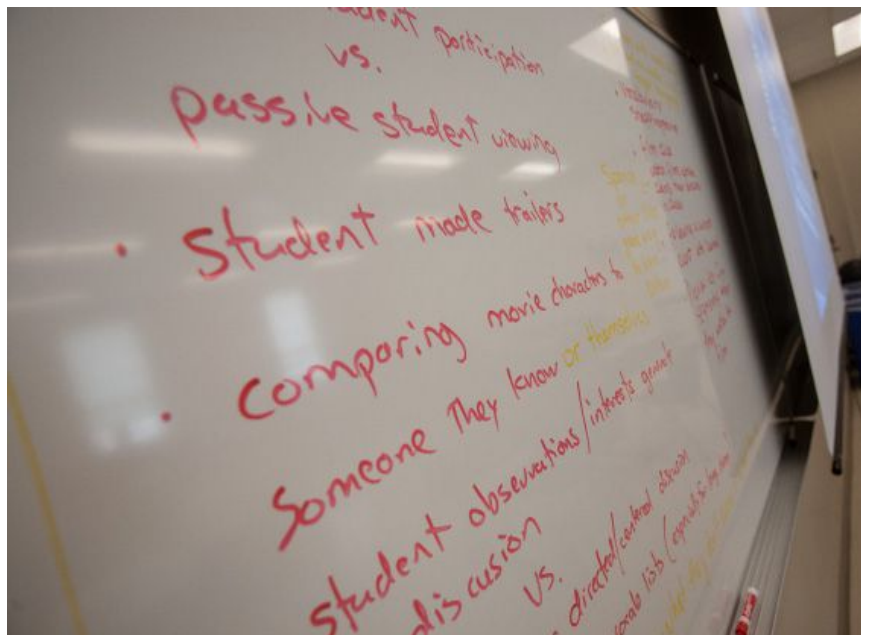
The institute was held July 13-17 on WKU's Bowling Green campus. Teachers studied different aspects of

Latin America through feature films and documentaries with specialized faculty and graduate students from WKU and Vanderbilt. Enriching their knowledge of Latin America, educators developed and shared curricular plans for increased coverage of Latin America in their respective schools. Dr. Rebecca Stobaugh, School of Teacher Education, worked with the participants to develop lessons embedding film.

As Dr. Kay Gandy, School of Teacher Education, stated, "Film can be used to engage reluctant readers through visual representations of text, transport students to places across the world, and serve as a catalyst to stimulate discussions and debates on contemporary issues. The immersion in the sensory experience of a film can be intellectually stimulating and emotionally meaningful."



Photos by Clinton Lewis



## Educators from Ecuador Visit WKU

As part of the Year of Ecuador program, Dr. Fred Carter, Teacher Services, and Dr. Aaron Hughey, Counseling and Student Affairs, co-wrote a grant to invite a school principal and a guidance counselor from Quito, Ecuador to WKU for presentations and interaction with students.

Principal Scott Hibbard and Guidance Counselor Javier Garcia, from Colegio Menor School in Quito, visited WKU the week of November 10. The two hosted a presentation—Education: Ecuadorian Style—about the leadership practices in Ecuador's schools, were guest speakers in various WKU classes, and visited several area schools throughout the week.



*Javier Garcia, WKU President Gary Ransdell, and Scott Hibbard*



*Education: Ecuadorian Style, November 11, 2014, Gary Ransdell Hall Auditorium. Photo by Bryan Lemon*



# Swedish Student Teachers Work in Region

By Chuck Mason, The Daily News

Jakob Törne, a 28-year-old from Sweden, was recently a math student teacher at Franklin-Simpson Middle School who worked for years as a mailman in his home country.

He met a colleague who was becoming a teacher, and Törne, wanting a career change, enrolled at Linköping University, which bills itself as a leading research institution in Sweden.

"Sweden has a teacher crisis. There is a need by 2018 for teachers, especially math teachers," Törne said. He lives in Borlänge, two hours north of Stockholm.

"I want to do something for my country," he said. "I have my future settled with a good job that I know is guaranteed."

Törne was among four math teachers and a kindergarten teacher from Sweden who student taught during September and October in the Simp-

son and Warren county public schools districts.

The exchange was arranged by Western Kentucky University. Dr. Fred Carter, director of Teacher Services, said the student teachers, the school districts and the universities benefit from the exchange.

"They learn the educational system of another country from the inside out," Carter said. During the fall semester, WKU sent three student teachers to Sweden in the exchange.

Sophia Prytz, Anton Billinger, Victor Brandt, Jakob Törne and Martin Engfors were in the United States through mid-October. Prytz was at North Warren Elementary in Warren County Public Schools as a kindergarten teacher. Billinger, Brandt and Törne were at FSMS and Engfors was at Franklin-Simpson High School.

"Sofia Prytz is doing great work,"

said North Warren Elementary Principal Amy Ground. She said this is the first time North Warren has hosted a student teacher from Sweden. "It's been a great experience," Ground said. North Warren has hosted student teachers from other countries.

Prytz, 21, from Norrköping, Sweden, said she's always wanted to teach. "I like when kids learn something new," Prytz said. "Kids are the same everywhere."

This was her second trip to the United States, having visited New York City and Washington, D.C. "It's not that different," she said of America. "You go by car more than we do." Sweden's residents generally travel by bicycle.

Prytz said in Sweden, the children start kindergarten a year later – at age 6 – than kids do here. Kids start first grade at 7, she said.



From left to right: Sophia Prytz, Anton Billinger, Martin Engfors, Jakob Törne, and Victor Brandt

"I don't know which (system) is better yet," she said.

Törne said the work day for a teacher in Sweden is different than here. One difference is lunch time for teachers in the U.S. is about half as long and there are less breaks from the students.

"The first two days were really hard," Törne said. "By 12 o'clock it felt like a whole day."

This was Törne's first time in the United States. "All I had ever known of America I had seen in books, movies and music," he said. "People are so kind and social."

Franklin Middle School's principal said the arrangement worked well.

"I think it's gone real well," said FSMS Principal Craig Delk, of student teaching at the middle school. "Our teachers have embraced them."

Franklin-Simpson High School Principal Tim Schlosser said the high school students' world is enlarged by having Engfors as a student teacher. There is also a Chinese teacher on staff at FSHS.

For Engfors, a 26-year-old Stockholm resident, it was also his first time in America. He said the extracurricular activities available to the students, particularly football, were new to him. "There are extracurricular activities in Swedish schools, but they are not organized to the level that they are in the United States," he said. Engfors is teaching pre-calculus, geometry and statistics. He said the math texts that he used here were more extensive than the math books he works with in Sweden.

The four Swedish men who talked with the Daily News said they were pleased to see how well-behaved Kentucky students are. They said the formality of students addressing teachers as "Mr." or "Mrs." is different than what they are used to. In Sweden, the kids call the teachers by their first names, the men said.

Engfors said the American teaching and living experience has been "eye-opening." He said the high school classroom has several high-tech devices available, includ-

ing an interactive smart board. "It is interesting how they put technology in the classroom."

Engfors initially wanted to be an engineer, then decided he wanted to interact more with people at his job, so he's pursuing a teaching degree.

"I think it is good for us to promote a 21st-century skill of global awareness," said Jim Flynn, superintendent of Simpson County Schools. "It's also neat for the young men doing the student teaching experience." Flynn studied in Finland as part of obtaining his doctorate degree.

Brandt, 24, from Ljungby, Sweden, said he's traveled to New York City, Washington, D.C., San Francisco and Los Angeles on vacation, but this was his first time in a smaller American community. He lives in a southern Swedish community that has about 15,000 people.

"I love working with people, and it is a joy to see the children learning," Brandt said.

Billinger, 22, from Osby, Sweden, is also from a small Swedish community of about 7,000 people. He worked as a substitute teacher in Sweden for a year prior to his education at Linköping University. "I love learning; I love knowledge."

He said Swedish classes have more one-on-one work with students and students do more self-study. He said teachers don't stand in front of the class and teach as much in Sweden as they do in the United States.

Each culture has its differences. One thing about Americans that Billinger was surprised about is people in the United States wear shoes inside their homes, while in Sweden they don't.

Linköping University in Sweden provides a comprehensive teacher education program and offers post graduate training plus opportunities for research, according to a university brochure posted online.

To learn more about international student teaching and scholarship opportunities, please visit [www.wku.edu/cebs/icci/](http://www.wku.edu/cebs/icci/).

# Passport to the World Scholarship



The CEBS International Committee is raising funds for a recently created scholarship—Passport to the World—for CEBS Teacher Education students to be used for international study programs such as Study Away, Study Abroad, Semester at Sea, Harlaxton, and International Student Teaching.

The current goal is to raise \$25,000 in an endowment. Fortunately, the committee was able to start with over \$4,000 from a previous fund set aside for international travel. Through a grant from the U.S. Department of State, the Global Approaches to Teacher Education (G.A.T.E.) program and the WKU department of Educational Telecommunications, two videos were produced on the culture and educational system of Mexico with the purpose of enhancing teacher education students' understanding of the growing Spanish speaking population in U.S. schools. Insight Media, an educational media company, purchased a distribution license for the videos. Proceeds from the distribution license were donated to the scholarship fund.

For more information about donating to the scholarship fund, contact Dr. Kay Gandy ([kay.gandy@wku.edu](mailto:kay.gandy@wku.edu)).



## Jolicoeur Awarded Gilman Scholarship

Shannon Jolicoeur is one of five WKU students recognized by the U.S. Department of State through the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship program during the fall 2014 semester. Jolicoeur, an English for Secondary Teachers major from Auburn, KY, spent four weeks student teaching in Belize.

"Through this experience I will have a broadened view of education as a whole and an expanded knowledge base for developing my own methodology to educating students in the U.S.," Jolicoeur said.

## Young Awarded ABWA Scholarship

Whitney Young, a Special Education major from Bowling Green, KY, was awarded a \$2,000 scholarship from the American Business Women's Association during the fall 2014 semester.

## Roederer Awarded Phi Kappa Phi Study Abroad Grant

Anna Roederer, an English for Secondary Teachers major from Crestwood, KY, was awarded a Study Abroad Grant worth \$1,000 from the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. Roederer is one of 50 students nationwide to receive the award. She used the funds to student teach in Werne, Germany during the fall 2014 semester.

Phi Kappa Phi Study Abroad Grants are designed to support undergraduates, both members and nonmembers, as they seek expanded knowledge and experience in their academic fields. Since the program's inception in 2001, the Society has awarded more than \$600,000 in Study Abroad Grants.



*Anna Roederer with her students in Werne, Germany.*

## ROTC Team Finishes 2nd in the Army Annual Ten-Miler

A team from WKU's Army ROTC placed second in the ROTC division of the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Army Ten-Miler in Washington, D.C., held on October 12, 2014.

The Army Ten-Miler, sponsored by the U.S. Army Military District of Washington, is the second largest 10-mile race in the United States. More than 26,000 runners finished this year's race.

WKU ROTC participants in the Army Ten-Miler were MAJ Stephan Walters, CPT Lincoln Ward, cadets Michael Cunningham of Nashville, TN; Dillon Beckner of Bowling Green; Cory Kleintjan of Taylorsville; Kyle Wilson of Henderson; Kelsey McArthur of Saint Charles, MO; Augustine Amonge of Bondo, Kenya; Austin Drexler of Bowling Green; Douglas Kaiser of Covington; and Jordan Goss of Finchville.



# Special Education Majors Attend KYCEC Conference

By Sarah Neal

Each year, the Kentucky Council for Exceptional Children (KYCEC) hosts a conference inviting special educators from all over the state to connect and learn new strategies for teaching special education students. The conference is three days long and is held in Louisville, KY at the Galt House Hotel.

During the conference, educators in the field of special education present sessions to the attendees on topics such as, evidenced-based practices, the use of technology, and new concepts to implement in the classroom. The keynote speakers were an inspirational duo known for their strong bond and sense of humor, motivational speakers, Mike Berkson and Tim Wambach. Berkson, a 25-year-old young man, has Cerebral Palsy. Wambach was Berkson's aide in school and it was there that they created an unbreakable bond. This pair had every single person at the conference laughing, some even in tears from laughing so hard!



From left to right: Cory Cooper, Shayla Carter, Taylor Hill, and Sarah Neal

WKU special education majors had the opportunity to present research projects that they had been working on throughout the semester. All of the topics related to teaching literacy to students with disabilities. This was a

great opportunity to present research to experienced professionals in the field of special education. As college students, this was an unforgettable and rewarding experience. The Student Council for Exceptional Children (SCEC), a student-run club that many special education majors at WKU are a part of, put together a silent auction during the conference. This auction was successful and raised money for the club.

The KYCEC Conference is a way for special educators to share ideas and strategies to improve the education for students with special needs in Kentucky. Special educators are joining forces to bridge the gap between students with disabilities and those without disabilities, and have just been refueled to change the world, one student at a time.

## About the author:

Sarah Neal is a senior special education major from Louisville, KY. She will be completing her semester of student teaching during the spring 2015 semester.



*Left: Cain Alvey, a senior special education major from Lewisport, KY, and Dr. Susan Keeseey, School of Teacher Education, presented "Peer Assisted Learning Strategies for Direct Instruction."*



## Dr. Nedra Atwell Honored with the Carl Perkins Contributor to Special Education Award

Dr. Nedra Atwell, professor in the School of Teacher Education, was recently presented with the Carl Perkins Contributor to Special Education Award at the KY Fall Exceptional Children Conference in Louisville. Dr. Rhonda Simpson, School of Teacher Education, nominated Atwell for the award.

The Carl Perkins Contributor to Special Education Award is presented to individuals for their distinguished leadership and service in the interest of exceptional children.



*Dr. Nedra Atwell and Dr. Rhonda Simpson*

### CEBS Faculty and Staff Honored by the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs

The following CEBS faculty and staff were recently honored at the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs Proposals and Awards Reception:

#### **Prolific Proposer:**

Dr. Marce Verzaro-O'Brien,  
Executive Director,  
Training/Technical Assistance  
Services

#### **First Time Awardee:**

Dr. Amy Hood-Hooten,  
Training Specialist,  
Training/Technical Assistance  
Services

#### **Junior Investigator:**

Dr. Christina Noel,  
Assistant Professor,  
School of Teacher Education

## Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D) Program

The faculty of the Department of Psychology are pleased to announce that the Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.) in Applied Psychology program was approved by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education on November 21, 2014. The program has both a School Psychology specialization and a Clinical Psychology Specialization. This program is pending approval by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. This is the 4th applied doctoral program for WKU.

The Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.) in Applied Psychology focuses on evidence-based practice, and training supervisors using a cognitive-behavioral orientation. The Psy.D. is an applied practice degree in the behavioral (or mental) health field. The program follows a practitioner/scholar model of training (also known as the Vail model), promoting application of the foundational knowledge of the science of psychology to clinical practice and the development of interpersonal and scientific skills for use in implementing and evaluating practice.

Upon completion of the internship, graduates will be eligible to apply

for licensure as psychologists. The program will require two capstone experiences—a dissertation and a pre-doctoral internship. The dissertation serves to document the student's mastery of scientific skills while the pre-doctoral internship serves to document the student's ability to integrate and apply knowledge and skills in community settings and evaluate practices.

The program is a 48-hour program that will be completed post-master's degree. It involves a 27-hour core set of courses and two possible specializations: Clinical Psychology and School Psychology, each consisting of 21 hours. Students will select one specialization.

The Doctor of Psychology in Applied Psychology program is designed to have a low student-faculty ratio so that admitted students can receive close individual mentoring from faculty members.

For more information, contact Dr. Rick Grieve (270) 745-4417 or [rick.grieve@wku.edu](mailto:rick.grieve@wku.edu).

# CEBS Faculty Selected for Spring Program to South Africa

Four CEBS faculty members have been selected to participate in the second annual Zuheir Sofia Endowed International Faculty Seminar (ZSEIFS).

An integral component of the International Year Of... (IYO) program and one of WKU's more innovative strategies in achieving comprehensive internationalization, the ZSEIFS is designed to infuse international content into the teaching, research, and service of its participants. The ZSEIFS brings together faculty from different disciplines and backgrounds to both collectively and individually investigate a target country for a full semester.

The IYO program, which made its debut on the WKU campus this academic year with a spotlight on Ecuador, is an annual, yearlong initiative that brings the world to WKU

one country at a time. Already this year, more than 1,500 WKU students, faculty, staff and community members have participated in IYO Ecuador-related events.

In the fall of 2015, WKU's emphasis on Ecuador will shift to South Africa, a transition that will take place significantly earlier for the faculty members selected to participate in the 2015 ZSEIFS.

CEBS faculty members selected for the 2015 ZSEIFS are: Dr. Margaret Gichuru, Teacher Education; Dr. Christina Noel, Teacher Education; Dr. Anthony Paquin, Psychology; and Dr. Kristin Wilson, Educational Administration, Leadership & Research.

The semester of intensive study and preparation will be capped by a two-week program to South Africa.

The in-country itinerary, influenced by the disciplines and goals of the participants and the expertise of the faculty leader, will facilitate a deeper understanding of the target country, forge connections for future collaborative projects, including research, and possibly result in a new institutional partnership(s).

The Zuheir Sofia Endowment was created to facilitate the mission of the Office of International Programs, which endeavors to provide leadership in the development of a strong international profile. Zuheir Sofia, a 1969 WKU graduate and 2014 Honorary Doctorate recipient, is chairman, president and CEO of Business Bank of Florida Corp.

## Dr. Jim Berger Honored with AAACE President's Appreciation Award

Dr. Jim Berger, professor of adult education in the Department of Educational Administration, Leadership, and Research, was recently recognized with the President's Appreciation Award from the American Association of Adult and Continuing Education.

Dr. Berger was recognized for his outstanding service as Treasurer of AAACE the last three years. "The

award is only given periodically," Dr. Berger said, "so it is a great honor. I'm pleased and humbled to be nominated and to have received this award."

AAACE is the field's premier association for adult and continuing educators and is made up of professionals from around the world. Each year, around 400 members gather at their annual conference. This year, the conference was held in Charleston, SC and hosted members from across North America and internationally.

At the same conference, Dr. Berger served as an invited panelist during the opening session of the Commission of Professors of Adult Education. In the session, titled "Focus on Mission, Money, and Strategy to Strengthen Adult Education Graduation Programs," Dr. Berger and colleagues discussed pathways for supporting and enhancing the field of adult education at the university level.

Dr. Berger also serves as editor of the *Journal of Research and Practice for Adult Literacy, Secondary, and Basic Education*, published by the Commission on Adult Basic Education.



## Dr. Ric Keaster Honored with the Jack Greer Lifetime Contributions Award

Dr. Ric Keaster, professor in WKU's Department of Educational Administration, Leadership, and Research, was recognized by the Southern Regional Council on Educational Administration (SRCEA) for his long career of contributions to the organization at its 2014 annual meeting in Atlanta.

SRCEA represents professors of educational administration and practicing school leaders from 14 states across the Southeastern U.S. The organization sponsors an annual research conference, publishes a peer-reviewed yearbook, and partners with universities and other professional groups to promote excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service within the discipline.

Dr. Keaster was recognized with the Jack Greer Lifetime Contributions Award for his many years of service to the organization, including serving as a member of the Board for 6 years, and as president of the organization in 2001.





**Dr. Barbara Burch**, professor in the Educational Leadership Doctoral program and provost emeritus, was sworn in as WKU's new Faculty Regent on October 31, 2014 by Board of Regents Chair J. David Porter.



**Abraham Williams**, CEBS Advisory Board and executive director of the Housing Authority of Bowling Green, was inducted into the Kentucky Civil Rights Hall of Fame on October 16, 2014.

The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights provides the inductions to recognize Kentucky men and women who have helped improve the quality of life for Kentucky, the United States and beyond, in the areas of human and civil rights.

Williams has been executive director of the Bowling Green Housing Authority since 1995. For the past seven years, he has taken children on tours of Historic Black Colleges and Universities from Louisiana to Washington D.C. He has worked with WKU to bring 15 public housing children to China during the past three years. He developed programs in Bowling Green that have moved 92 families from public housing to home ownership. He established a "from-welfare-to-work" program that has helped more than 600 people find jobs. He is the founder of the "Why Try" program that uses more than 40 African American men as role models for students in Bowling Green and Warren County.



**William L. Twyman**, CEBS Advisory Board, was named as a Volunteer of the Year at the WKU 2014 Summit Awards ceremony held on November 6 as part of the 2014 Homecoming activities.

Twyman is an educator who is semi-retired and works part-time with the consulting firm of Educational Directions of Louisville, KY. He has taught math and science in the Glasgow City School System, served as a principal, and held a central office position. He was among the first group of Kentucky educators to receive the Milken Educator Award in 1993.

## AASCU's Civic Engagement Award Named in Honor of Dr. Barbara Burch

The American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) recently awarded the first Barbara Burch Award for Faculty Leadership in Civic Engagement.

Named in honor of Dr. Barbara Burch, provost emeritus and professor of educational leadership at WKU, the award recognizes exemplary faculty leadership in advancing the civic learning and engagement of undergraduate students and advancing the work of AASCU's American Democracy Project on campus and/or nationally. Dr. Burch showed extraordinary national leadership in the design, creation and ongoing development of the American Democracy Project and helped launch the project at WKU in 2003-04.

"I am truly honored to have this award naming affiliation," Dr. Burch said. "It is always our faculty that make the 'real difference' in our students' learning and success, and it is the leadership and dedication of faculty who help achieve the goals for productive and meaningful civic engagement. I am especially grateful for the leadership of faculty and the great work that is done by AASCU in helping our universities respond to the opportunities and challenges of civic engagement as an institutional commitment and priority."

Gregg Kaufman, campus coordinator for AASCU's American Democracy Project at Georgia College, received the inaugural award at the 2014 American Democracy Project and The Democracy Commitment National Meeting June 5-7 in Louisville.

# KGA Sponsors Teacher Leader Institute

The Kentucky Geographic Alliance (KGA) sponsored a Teacher Leader Institute November 7-9 in Bowling Green, KY.

The purpose of the Institute was to create a cadre of teachers to conduct professional development and leadership activities for the KGA. The theme "Rollin' on the River" set the stage, as lessons on rivers were modeled by Susan Keith and Sandra Goldich, Teacher Consultants from the Louisiana Geographic Education Alliance (LaGEA), and Dr. Kay Gandy, co-coordinator of the KGA. Guest speaker

Michael Trapasso, retired instructor from the Department of Geography and Geology at WKU, shared information on the role of rivers in the Civil War.

Much of the training took place at Lost River Cave in Bowling Green, and participants were treated to a "behind the scenes" tour of the cave. By the end of the Institute, each participant had designed and presented their own lesson ideas, following the format instituted by the National Geographic Society for teacher training. A requirement for the new Teacher Leaders is

to plan and implement a pre-service teacher conference at WKU in Spring 2015 to share lesson ideas with teacher candidates.

Participants for the Teacher Leader Institute included, Jessica Roberts from North Warren Elementary, Harmony Hendrick from Natcher Elementary, Jessica Elliott from Henry County Middle School, Joe Money-maker from South Livingston Elementary, Roger Thomas from Jefferson County Traditional Middle School, and Tonya Hill from Clarkson Elementary.



*New Teacher Leaders for the KGA*

*Standing: Jessica Roberts, Tonya Hill (left to right)*

*Sitting: Roger Thomas, Harmony Hendrick, Jessica Elliott, Joe Moneymaker*



*Participants build rivers of ribbons.*

## Dr. Jie Zhang Presents Spencer Fellowship Project to National Academy of Education

Dr. Jie Zhang, Assistant Professor, Department of Educational Administration, Leadership and Research, presented her postdoctoral fellowship research at the National Academy of Education (NAEd) Annual Meeting and Fellows Retreat, November 14, 2014 in Washington, DC.

Dr. Zhang was one of only twenty postdoctoral fellows selected nationally by NAEd for the 2013-2015 award cycle, receiving grant funding in the amount of \$55,000 to support her research focused on English Language

Learners (ELL) titled, "Morphological Awareness and Word Learning in First and Second Language."

Dr. Zhang's research examined how children use morphology (word parts) to infer the meanings of new words while reading or in isolation, and whether morphological awareness facilitates word learning ability, which in turn, contributes to reading comprehension in both their first and second languages.

About 400 fourth and fifth grade students from two school districts in

Bowling Green, KY participated in the study. Major findings from the study include: 1) native English (NE) speaking students and fluent English proficient (FEP) ELLs are better able to use morphological analysis to derive new word meaning than the limited English proficient students; and, 2) word reading fluency mediates the relationship between morphological awareness and reading comprehension for the LEP group, but word meaning inference ability mediates the relationship for the NE and FEP groups.



# Kentucky Teacher Hall of Fame 2015

A Muhlenberg County educator has been selected for the eighth class of the Governor Louie B. Nunn Kentucky Teacher Hall of Fame.

The statewide selection committee has chosen **Mary K. Armstrong** of Central City for induction into the Governor Louie B. Nunn Kentucky Teacher Hall of Fame.

The Governor Louie B. Nunn Kentucky Teacher Hall of Fame was created in 2000 through a gift by former Gov. Nunn, who hoped to recognize the vital role that classroom teachers in Kentucky play in the education of young people and the positive impact education has on the state's economy. WKU was selected as the home of the Kentucky Teacher Hall of Fame because of its more than 100-year history in teacher education.

A native of McLean County, Kentucky, Mary Katherine Armstrong began her teaching career in Benton, Kentucky in a two-room school in 1940. She taught grades five through eight at Church Grove Elementary School until 1941. Her teaching career was put on hold when she moved to Evansville, Indiana and began working at Briggs Aircraft Factory during WWII. After marrying a WWII veteran and raising their two sons, Armstrong returned to college and to her teaching career. In 1953, she began teaching at Bremen Elementary in Bremen, Kentucky and continued to teach at the school until she retired in 1999. She remained active in the Muhlenberg County School District as a substitute teacher until 2011. During her years as a teacher, she graduated from Western Kentucky University with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1958, earned a master's degree in Guidance in 1962, earned a Standard Elementary degree in 1964, and completed her Rank I in 1977.

As a classroom teacher, Ms. Armstrong was described as dedicated, involved, and caring. A former student commented, "She challenged us to not take one day for granted. She had plans for us and took it seriously that in the short time she touched our lives she was going to make a difference."



Throughout her career, Armstrong was actively involved in the Kentucky Education Association (KEA), National Education Association (NEA), the Kentucky Teachers Retirement Association, and her community. As noted by one of her colleagues, "Among the many character traits that Mary Armstrong possesses, perhaps the most admirable trait is the feeling that one is obligated to give back to society."

## Nominate a Teacher

Teachers may be nominated and recommended by their individual school districts, fellow educators, or former students. Each nominee must have a minimum of 19 years teaching experience, 10 of which should have been in a P-12 Kentucky school. Nominees may be living or deceased. All nominees must have a completed nomination packet submitted by the deadline (July 15 each year). Inquiries and/or additional information may be directed to Tammy Spinks, College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, Western Kentucky University, 1906 College Heights Blvd., #11030, Bowling Green, KY 42101-1030 or [tammy.spinks@wku.edu](mailto:tammy.spinks@wku.edu), (270) 745-4664. Information is also available online at [www.wku.edu/kythf](http://www.wku.edu/kythf).

# CEBS Student Ambassadors 2014-15

The College of Education and Behavioral Sciences Student Ambassador program allows students to not only represent the College, but to also build leadership and team building skills. The Ambassadors assist the College departments at events such as open houses, college fairs, campus preview days, and the Academic Transitions Program. Additionally, members provide campus and building tours, participate in CEBS events, and serve as peer mentors to other students.

The following students are serving as Student Ambassadors for the 2014-15 academic year:



- **Porshia Austin**, a special education major from Clarksville, TN.
- **Molly Gerrish**, a psychology major from Louisville, KY.
- **Haley Hagan**, an elementary education major from Glasgow, KY.
- **Lillie Hoskinson**, an elementary education major from Georgetown, KY.
- **Clint Jarboe**, a psychology major from Hardinsburg, KY.
- **Sydney Meaux**, a psychology and French education major from Lexington, KY.
- **Sarah Neal**, a special education major from Louisville, KY.
- **Alexandra Oldham**, a psychology major from Bowling Green, KY.
- **McKenzie Perdew**, a psychology major from Shepherdsville, KY.
- **Jalyn Savage**, a special education major from Bowling Green, KY.
- **Sarah Schell Snipes**, an elementary education major from Lawrenceburg, KY.
- **Victoria Snoddy**, a science and math education major from Nashville, TN.

The graphic features a young Black boy in a white shirt, blue tie, and dark vest, looking upwards and to the right. The background is a dark blue gradient with a faint geometric pattern of overlapping squares. Text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

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# Hanban Volunteer Chinese Teacher Training

Dr. S. Kay Gandy and Dr. Lynn Hines, faculty members from the School of Teacher Education (STE), visited Beijing, China in May 2014 to train the Confucius Institute's Hanban Volunteer Chinese Teachers to meet Kentucky Teacher Standards. This is the third year faculty members from the STE have been to China to provide 30 hours of professional development for Chinese teachers who are seeking Kentucky teacher certification and plan to teach Chinese in Kentucky schools. Each teacher applicant submitted a portfolio documenting their proficiency at meeting each of the ten Kentucky teacher standards. The portfolios were reviewed and assessed by a team of School of Teacher Education faculty members in June 2014. Successful applicants received Kentucky teacher licensure and arrived at WKU

in July 2014 to receive further training and receive assignments for schools.

Before the training in China, Dr. Martha Day, STE faculty member who trained Chinese teachers last year, hosted a two-day webinar to introduce the group to the ten Kentucky Teacher Standards and provide an overview of the portfolio process. The teachers were given assignments to write drafts of two standards, their vita, and prepare a presentation using technology to introduce themselves on the first day of training.

During the training in Beijing, the Hanban volunteer teachers learned about the Common Core Standards, creating and maintaining a learning climate, designing and planning instruction, implementing and managing instruction, assessing and communicating learning results,

implementing technology, reflecting and evaluating teaching and learning, collaboration with colleagues and parents, and leadership within the school and community, including the Leader in Me program. The teachers enthusiastically engaged in activities that prepared them to teach effectively and to meet the needs of American students.

Sheng-Huei "Betty" Yu, Associate Director for Educational Outreach of the Confucius Institute at WKU, traveled to Beijing to assist Drs. Gandy and Hines in helping to prepare the volunteer teachers for their respective teaching practices in the United States. Mrs. Yu interacted with the teachers to address their concerns about teaching in the United States and provide examples of successful past experiences for other Chinese teachers.



# Teaching Economics Through Children's Literature

WKU's Center for Economics Education collaborated with the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis – Louisville Branch to sponsor a professional development session for teachers on September 29, 2014 titled "Teaching Economics through Children's Literature." Elementary and middle school teachers and WKU pre-service teacher candidates participated in sample lessons showing how to teach economics content and skills through commonly used children's books.

Dr. Erin Yetter, Economic Education Specialist, modeled sample economics lessons and showcased technology resources available to teachers as part of the education outreach of the Federal Reserve Bank. Dr. Jana Kirchner, Assistant Professor in the School of Teacher Education, shared the College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies with teachers and provided updates on Kentucky's draft social studies standards. Mrs. Karen Hughes, a second grade teacher at

Auburn Elementary in Logan County, stated about the training: "After teaching fifth grade for 13 years, this is my first year teaching second grade. I am planning the social studies lessons for my grade-level team and needed some resources to teach economics. The lessons and books Dr. Yetter used showed great ways to integrate reading and economics content. The lesson ideas were interactive, informative and engaging. I can't wait to see what other lessons and resources are available on the website."

In the photograph, teachers are involved in a lesson using Marjorie Priceman's "How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World." Participants traded ingredients for vanilla ice cream for the apple pie and learned



about how middlemen, such as grocery stores, help make trade easier. For more information about upcoming economics professional development opportunities, visit the WKU Center for Economics Education website: <http://www.wku.edu/stc/cee/>.

## First Cohort of New EALR Principal Program Graduates

The Department of Educational Administration, Leadership, and Research is pleased to congratulate the first graduating cohort of its recently-revised principal certification program. Once they have successfully passed their licensure exams, these principal candidates will be fully eligible to seek administrative positions in schools.

Cohort 1 began core courses in Fall 2013, completing their program 18 months later. Cohort 2 launched in Fall 2014, including 37 new principal candidates, and EALR anticipates approximately 18 incoming principal candidates in Cohort 3, which will begin Spring 2015.

Cohort 1 includes 15 outstanding principal candidates representing 9 school districts:

- Andrea Diggs, Jefferson County Schools
- Annette Fackler, Meade County Schools
- Rachel Fairman, Simpson County Schools
- John Gray, McLean County Schools
- Ashley Hayes, Jefferson County Schools
- Ashley Hendrick, Barren County Schools
- Gena Jeffries, Hardin County Schools
- Sandra Light, Bowling Green Independent Schools
- Nicole Lyons, Warren County Schools
- Joey Norman, Warren County Schools
- Susan Pfefferman, Warren County Schools
- Jon Porter, Allen County Schools
- Dan Robbins, Hardin County Schools
- Carlos Quarles, Warren County Schools
- Shawn Quinn, Warren County Schools



# *Student Council for Exceptional Children*

## **Volunteering to Make a Difference**

By Cain Alvey

Beginning in September, the Western Kentucky University student chapter of the Council for Exceptional Children (SCEC) began volunteering and making a presence at the Warren Regional Juvenile Detention Center (WRJDC).

Through SCEC's time at the WRJDC, they have continued lessons and programs that are taught in the classrooms of the detention center. In September, SCEC in collaboration with the WRJDC created a program that allowed the students to experience and practice public speaking.

Special education seniors Cain Alvey of Lewisport, KY and Whitney Reed of Louisville, introduced the students to public speaking, providing lessons on eye contact and voice inflection, with the ultimate goal of this program. The students were given the opportunity to give their speeches to a mix of WKU students, WRJDC staff, and all of the students in the facility.

After the program, many of the students were grateful for the opportunity, and expressed to SCEC that this exercise allowed them to practice skills that are beneficial in the real world. SCEC's mission is to help provide the same educational and social opportunities to all students, regardless of disability or placement that makes the WRJDC the perfect place to be involved. The goals of SCEC's participation in the WRJDC are to teach important real world skills, citizenship, and problem solving abilities. All are important skills to learn while in school to prepare students for adult life.

In collaboration with WRJDC staff and teachers Dero Downing, Kelly Copas, and Dr. Rebecca Painter, senior Cain Alvey plans the activities and lessons for each visit to the WRJDC. The group ensures that each activity benefits the students educationally and socially, within the parameters of the facilities rules.

Special education senior Whitney Young (Bowling Green) said the WRJDC "encourages student success by providing an environment that is structured and caring for each individual student."

SCEC is grateful to have the opportunity to be a part of the works of the WRJDC, in providing that type of environment for the students. Each time SCEC members are present at the WRJDC, they encourage the students to continue their work in becoming better citizens and individuals. WRJDC teacher Kelly Copas commented, "SCEC members provide role models for the students, and serve as examples for them to become greater and pursue their goals every day."

While SCEC members are encouraging the students of the WRJDC, the SCEC members learn so much more from the students. Each session ends with a discussion on what teachers and adults can do to make students' lives better. The staff at the WRJDC points out to SCEC members that teachers are the individuals that can make the biggest impact in a student's life, and can ultimately affect whether or not some students stay in school or are sent to the WRJDC.

"The students at the WRJDC teach me that there is a need for caring individuals in our schools that are willing to involve themselves in each student's life. While ultimately the decision is in the student's hands, teachers should be encouraging our students to make the best decisions for the individual and everyone else. While this is a substantial challenge, it is the most important job of a teacher," stated special education junior Emily Erwine (Louisville).



SCEC will continue to participate in the programs of the WRJDC, and hopes to increase the idea that teachers are important factors in a student's life. They will continue to lead activities based around citizenship, problem solving skills, and other skills that are important to have in adult life. SCEC is thankful for this opportunity and wishes to thank the staff and teachers of the WRJDC for the opportunities they are giving to grow as teachers. Further, they wish to thank the students of the WRJDC for teaching them so much about the importance of teachers and adults, but most importantly about the needs of students in our schools.

### **About the Author:**



Cain Alvey is a senior special education major from Lewisport, KY. He is the WKU SCEC President and the State SCEC Vice President. He has also worked with

the Kelly Autism Program for four years.

# WKU Center for Literacy

By Kristy Cartwright, Center Coordinator

The WKU Center for Literacy has had a remarkably busy Fall 2014 semester. We have been serving students on campus, conducting research, and establishing some great outreach opportunities in our community.

One of the biggest changes for this fall has been the establishment of the Center for Literacy as a student study center. Now that we have the capabilities to be swiipeable, we are able to report study hours for any program, professor, fraternity, or other interested entities. Students are allowed to come to the Center for Literacy to study, seek assistance with any reading or writing-related tasks, receive test prep tutoring, or attend one of the many College Reading Success (CRS) seminars offered.

Six sessions of the College Reading Success series were offered this semester. The first was a Freshman Forum, an open discussion for any interested students who had questions about the academic expectations of college. Due to the outstanding success of the Freshman Forum, this will be a regular offering at the Center for Literacy. Other topics covered included vo-

cabulary acquisition, how to increase reading speed, and improving study strategies, among other literacy-based academic topics.

In addition to CRS, a book club for all interested students, faculty, and staff is also held. Books are provided to all interested readers. The first book read was *Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore* by Robin Sloan. Due to high student interest, a second book was read for the Fall 2014 semester, *The Forgotten Girl*, written by Dr. David Bell, an associate professor of English at WKU. To kick off this second book club, Dr. Bell came to the Center for Literacy and gave a book talk over his novel, as well as offered some advice for aspiring novelists.

A Student Teacher Literacy Breakfast was held in early October. This event provided student teachers poised to graduate in December with a variety of conference-type sessions focused on relevant topics in education. A similar event will be held in Spring 2015.

A Game Night for International Students was held on October 30th. Although targeted to international

students, all students were allowed and encouraged to attend. It was a great opportunity for our international population to socialize, network, and relax with our domestic students, all while sharpening their language and literacy skills and experiencing a bit of American culture.

Community outreach initiatives are also going well. A relationship has been established with Simpson County Adult Education to provide paperback books to inmates at the Simpson County Detention Center. These books are provided both by donation and funding from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation.

An adult literacy site has been established in a partnership with the Housing Authority of Bowling Green. Phenix Place Adult Literacy Center was opened in October to provide literacy services to any interested adults in the community, regardless of whether they are residents of the Housing Authority or not. As always, all literacy services for adults are completely free.

Additionally, outreach services are provided at local schools in the community, providing services to both students and their parents. A book study is still underway at Potter Gray Elementary, and a partnership was established with the Parent Teacher Student Association at Bowling Green Junior High to provide programming for parents as they assist in educating their children. The faculty at the WKU Center for Literacy are happy to provide services at any schools in the community.

Persons interested in learning more about the Center for Literacy or receiving any of our services may contact us at 270-745-2207 or find us in Tate Page Hall, room 401.

*Pictured from left to right: Luiza Coutinho, Thiago Souza, Gustavo Nacif, Cristina Hildes, Tainara Almeida, Rodolfo Pedrosa, and Flavio Chavarri*





# Publications & Presentations: 2014 - 2015



- Cangemi, J. (2014). Do we only die once? *Education*, 134(4), 433-438.
- Cangemi, J. (2014). Post-traumatic stress disorder and the musical *Les Miserables*. *Psychology and Education: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, 51(3/4), 12-13.
- \*Clark, J. P., Norman, A., Zhang, J., Houchens, G., Miller, S., & \*Niu, C. (2014, November). *A synthesis of competency-based instruction: Implications for developing classroom observation protocols for Race to the Top-District kid-FRIENDLY schools*. Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Mid-South Educational Research Association, Knoxville, TN.
- \*Fortney, C. & Redifer, J.L. (2014, May). *Self-explanation and practice retrieval improve recall and inference test performance*. Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Psychological Science, San Francisco, CA.
- Gandy, S. K. (2014, July). *Cajun and Creole folktales*. Presentation at the National Council for Geographic Education Conference, Memphis, TN.
- Gandy, S. K. (2014, September). *Using children's literature to teach geographic concepts*. Presentation at the Kentucky Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference, Erlanger, KY.
- \*Hagan, D. & Houchens, G. (2014, November). *Catholic school faculty meetings: A case study linking Catholic identity, school improvement, and teacher engagement*. Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Mid-South Educational Research Association, Knoxville, TN.
- Houchens, G., \*Crossbourne, T.A., Zhang, J., Norman, A., \*Fisher, L., & \*Schraeder, M. (2014, November). *Personalized learning: A theoretical review and implications for assessing kid-FRIENDLY student outcomes*. Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Mid-South Educational Research Association, Knoxville, TN.
- Houchens, G., \*Stewart, T., & \*Jennings, S. (2014, November). *Enhancing instructional leadership through collaborative coaching: A multi-case study*. Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Mid-South Educational Research Association, Knoxville, TN.
- Hunt, S., & Cangemi, J. (2014). Want to improve your leadership skills? Play Chess! *Education*, 134(3), 359-368.
- Inman, T.F., Roberts, J. L., Wininger, S.R., & Crowley, B. M. (2014, April). *Project GEMS: Results of a study in problem-based learning*. Poster presented at the Council for Exceptional Children Convention, Philadelphia, PA.
- Kirchner, A., & Norman, A. (2014). Evaluation of electronic assessment systems within the USA and their ability to meet the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) Standard 2. *Educational Assessment, Evaluation and Accountability*, 26(4), 393-407.
- Kirchner, J. (2014, September). *Analyzing clues, making a hypothesis...Is this my social studies class? Using an inquiry strategy that works!* Presentation at the Kentucky Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference, Erlanger, KY.
- Kirchner, J. (2014, September). *I don't teach reading; I teach economics. It's possible to do both!* Presentation at the Kentucky Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference, Erlanger, KY.
- Kirchner, J. (2014, September). *PGES, C3, and KCAS: What does student engagement look like in social studies?* Presentation at the Kentucky Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference, Erlanger, KY.
- Kirchner, J. (2014, June). *Teaching global interdependence: Creating readers and thinkers in economics*. Presentation at the Kentucky Council for Economic Education's Annual Conference, Louisville, KY.
- Kirchner, J. (2014, November). *Teaching history as mystery: An inquiry strategy that works!* Presentation at the National Council for Social Studies Annual Conference, Boston, MA.
- Norman, A., \*Niu, C., \*Elliot, C., \*Clark, J. P., Zhang, J., Miller, S., & Houchens, G. (2014, November). *Risk factors for high school drop-outs in Kentucky*. Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Mid-South Educational Research Association, Knoxville, TN.

- Pereira, N., Jordan, S. S., & Moore, M. (2014, November). *Utilizing engineering activities in K-12 grades to promote interdisciplinary understanding of science, technology, and mathematics*. Presentation at the 61st Annual Convention of the National Association for Gifted Children, Baltimore, MD.
- Perkins, S., & Wininger, S. R. (2014, August). *Self-regulation and physical activity in WKU employees*. Poster presented at the 2014 APA Convention in Washington, D.C.
- Pope-Tarrance, J., Norman, A., Evans, S., & Kirchner, T. (2014, September). *An electronic assessment system to monitor candidate progress: Lessons in development, implementation, and planning for the future*. Presentation at the meeting of the Renaissance Group and Teacher Education Council of State Colleges and Universities Joint Conference, Washington, D.C.
- Redifer, J.L. & Lee, C.S. (2014, May). *Creative self-efficacy and creativity beliefs influence cognitive load during creative thinking tasks*. Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Psychological Science, San Francisco, CA.
- Redifer, J.L. & Lee, C.S. (2014, August). *Creativity beliefs and performance feedback influence creative problem-solving performance*. Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Association, Washington, D.C.
- Roberts, J. L. (2015). Individuals who are gifted and talented. In R. Gargiulo (Ed.) *Special education in contemporary society*. University of Alabama at Birmingham: SAGE Publications.
- Roberts, J. L. & Inman, T. F. (Eds.). (2015). *Assessing differentiated student products: A protocol for development and evaluation*. Waco, TX: Prufrock Press.
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- Roberts, J. L. & Inman, T. F. (2014, September). *Challenging gifted students: Differentiation made simple*. Presentation at the European High Ability Conference, Ljubljana, Slovenia.
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- Stobaugh, R., Chandler, W., & White, C. (2015). Case study: High school turnaround. In P. Epler (Ed.), *Examining response to intervention (RTI) models in secondary education*. Hershey, PA: IGI Global.
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- Wininger, S.R., & Benningfield, S. (2014, August). *Effects of gender and implicit theories on elementary students' achievement and interest in science*. Poster presented at the 2014 APA Convention in Washington, D.C.
- Wininger, S. R., Duck, K., Neblett, C., O'Grady, E., Estes, L., & Higginson, M.K. (2014, August). *No tunes allowed: Can listening to music improve your exercise performance?* Poster presented at the 2014 APA Convention in Washington, D.C.

\*Indicates current CEBS student or alumni



PNC Grow Up Great, The Center for Gifted Studies at Western Kentucky University, and Innovate Kentucky have partnered to create six short videos for educators and parents to develop critical and innovative thinking in young children. Written and developed by master teacher Allison Bemiss, the videos focus on BIG ideas in early childhood education: Environment, literacy, inquiry, growth mindset, thinking strategies, and real world learning. Please visit [wku.edu/gifted](http://wku.edu/gifted) to learn more about *Little Learners, Big Ideas*.



**Matthew Adamson** is the new assistant principal at Warren East Middle School. This is his 14th year in education. Adamson spent 12 years as an elementary teacher at South Edmonson Elementary. Last year, he was the interim principal at Edmonson County Middle School.

**Dr. Kirk Biggerstaff** is the new superintendent of the Cumberland County School System. He has been principal at Tompkinsville Elementary School in Monroe County since 2008. He previously served as the assistant principal from 2006-2008 and as the library media specialist at Monroe County High School from 2002-2004. Dr. Biggerstaff began his career as a teacher at North Metcalfe Elementary and Metcalfe County Middle School.

**Melissa Brown** is the new principal of Gateway Academy in Owensboro, KY. She previously served as assistant principal at Owensboro High School.

**Katie Carpenter** was named the coach of the Lady Purples Volleyball team at Bowling Green High School. She is an Owensboro native who came to Bowling Green after two seasons as an assistant at Apollo High School.

**Shelly Clark**, who teaches art at Richardsville and Briarwood elementary schools in Warren County, has been named the Kentucky Elementary School Art Teacher of the Year by the Kentucky Art Education Association.

**Dr. Dan Costellow** is the new principal at Rich Pond Elementary School. He has been assistant principal at South Warren Middle School since the school opened in 2010. Before that, he taught at Warren East High School.

**Chris Corder** is the new principal at Radcliff Elementary School. He previously served as the assistant principal at James T. Alton Middle School.

**Wes Cottongim** is the new assistant principal at Briarwood Elementary School. Since 2012, Cottongim has been assistant principal at Simpson Elementary School in Simpson County.

**Ryan "Blake" Crabtree** is the new head baseball coach at Russellville High School. Previously, Crabtree was the assistant coach at Barren County High School.

**Dee Anna Crump** is the new assistant principal at Warren Elementary School. She previously served as the curriculum coordinator at Plano Elementary School.

**Warren Cunningham**, an assistant principal at Barren County High School, is the new principal for the Barren County Trojan Academy. The academy is the ninth-grade center for incoming freshman students.

**Dr. Jim Flynn**, superintendent of Simpson County Schools, has been named the 2014 Kentucky Superintendent of the Year. Prior to serving as Simpson superintendent, Flynn was principal of Shelby County High School for six years. He has also served as a teacher, dean of students and assistant principal in a more than 25-year career in public education.

**Nancy Gibson** is the new director of district relations and operations of Henderson County Schools. She taught in Henderson County Schools at 7th Street Elementary prior to becoming a curriculum specialist at A. B. Chandler Elementary and East Heights Elementary. She has served the past six years as Principal at East Heights Elementary School.

**Chase Goff** is the new athletic director at Warren Central High School. Goff has been an assistant baseball and football coach the last two seasons at WCHS.

Jackson Academy teacher **David Graham** has been recognized with the Citation of Service Award by the Kentucky Music Educators Association (KMEA) District 3 membership.

Graham served as a band director for 17 years, including ten years at Warren Central High School, and has managed KMEA State Marching Band Championship Quarterfinal and Semifinal sites for several years.

**Jeanie Hopkins** is the new assistant principal at Henry F. Moss Middle School in the Warren County Public Schools District.

**Althea Hurt** is the new principal at Meadow View Elementary. She previously served as assistant principal at North Hardin High School.

**Sarah Jones**, a third grade teacher at Loma Vista Elementary in Brentwood, CA, published a book titled, *The Classroom Management Book*. She was a 1998 graduate of WKU.

**Jason Kupchella** is the new Warren County Public Schools Chief Academic Officer. Previously, he served as the principal at Briarwood Elementary School.

**Nick Lowe** is the new athletic director at Greenwood High School. He has been the school's cross country coach for the past four years.

**Lori Morris** is the new principal at Briarwood Elementary School. She previously served as assistant principal at Rockfield Elementary School.

Briarwood Elementary School music teacher **Andrea Nance** was selected as the Kentucky Music Educators Association (KMEA) District 3 Elementary Music Teacher of the Year. Nance, who also won the District 3 award for the 2007-08 school year, routinely places several students on the KMEA All-State Choir.

**Jon Porter** is the new assistant principal at James E. Bazzell Middle School in Allen County. Porter first taught music in the Warren County Public Schools District and served as the band director at South Warren Middle School and South Warren High School for the past four years.

**Robyn Puryear** is the new assistant principal at Sycamore Park Elementary School in Culpeper, VA. She has worked as an assistant principal for six years at Eastern View High School, and has worked in education as a teacher and an administrator for 22 years.

Northeastern Illinois University Vice President for Student Affairs and CEBS alumnus **Frank E. Ross** received the 2014 Outstanding Service to NASPA Award for Region IV-East. The award is presented to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding achievement to the student affairs profession and Region IV-East, which covers the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin, and the Canadian province of Ontario.

**Rick Snodgrass** is the new principal at Hopkins County Central High School.

Snodgrass previously was a teacher and football coach at HCHS, South Hopkins High School and Southern Academy in Greensboro, Ala.

Warren Central High School Principal **Brad Tolbert** was selected as the Kentucky Music Educators Association District 3 Administrator of the Year for his support of the school's band and choir programs.

**Kim White** is the new director of instructional technology for Henderson County Schools. Most recently she has been an elementary curriculum specialist at Spottsville Elementary and Bend Gate Elementary.

**Eric Wilson** is the new principal of alternative programs for Warren County Public Schools. He leads the Lighthouse Academy alternative high school as well as the Jackson Academy alternative middle school.

Wilson spent time as a teacher, coach and athletic director at Warren Central High School before moving into an assistant principal position at WCHS. He has spent the past few years as assistant principal at Warren Elementary School.

**James A. Wilson** is the new director of student services for the Daviess County Public Schools district. He previously served as principal at South Spencer Middle School in Rockport, IN.

Drakes Creek Middle School teacher **Melanie Wyatt** has been named the Junior Achievement of Southcentral Kentucky Teacher of the Year.

**Stoye Young** is the new assistant principal at Warren East High School. He had previously served as the assistant principal at Warren East Middle School.

## CEBS Magazine Wins Award of Excellence

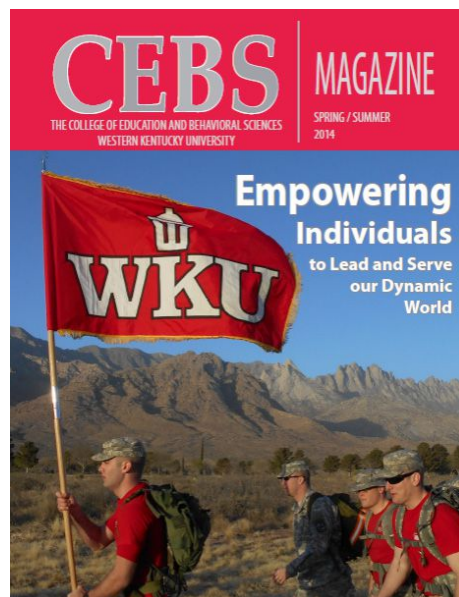
Western Kentucky University's Division of Public Affairs claimed 17 awards in a variety of categories during the annual competition sponsored by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) in Kentucky.

The awards were presented on December 12, 2014 during the CASE Kentucky annual meeting in Louisville.

WKU won the grand award for Best Practices in Communications & Marketing, which recognizes the best overall communications and marketing program in Kentucky in the given year based on budget, staff size, outcomes and efficient use of resources.

An Award of Excellence was presented for "College of Education & Behavioral Sciences Magazine—Spring/Summer 2014"

"We're honored to be recognized by our peers as having the top marketing and communications program among universities in the Commonwealth of Kentucky," Robbin Taylor, WKU's Vice President for Public Affairs, said.



"We strive to use our resources well and provide the best customer service possible to our campus partners, and these 17 awards from CASE Kentucky are a great tribute to our talented team of professionals and the outstanding work they do to promote our university and our individual colleges and programs."

## Coaching and Mentoring Superintendents

Working through a cooperative initiative with the Kentucky Department of Education and the Kentucky Association of School Administrators, **Dr. Fred Carter**, Director of Teacher Services, is providing leadership for a statewide coaching and mentoring program for all new Kentucky school superintendents. This is the third year that Carter has assisted with this program, working with over half of Kentucky's superintendents during this period of time. Of Kentucky's 173 superintendents, 87 of them were hired within the past three years.

Dr. Carter works with 25 new superintendents statewide this year but works most closely with the 10 new superintendents within the WKU service area in Southcentral and Western Kentucky.



# Administrative Appointments

**Dr. Marguerita K. DeSander**

**Department of Educational Administration, Leadership and Research  
Department Head**

Marguerita DeSander earned a B.A. from Michigan State University, a J.D. from Thomas M. Cooley Law School, and a Ph.D. in Educational Policy, Planning and Leadership – The College of William and Mary

She was a practicing attorney for five years and focused her work on employment-related issues. As she transitioned into P-12 service, she built on the employment issues foundation and served as an executive director and assistant superintendent for human resources. In higher education, Dr. DeSander has enjoyed working with aspiring administrators, engaging in the exploration of how law and policy impact administrative practice and have chaired and served on dissertation committees in leadership and policy studies.



**Dr. Pitt Derryberry**

**Department of Psychology  
Co-Department Head and Professor, Educational Psychology,  
Moral Development**

Pitt Derryberry received his Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from the University of Alabama. He has been employed at WKU since 2001, having achieved the rank of Professor in 2011. While at WKU, Dr. Derryberry has over 20 publications and has been an author on over 30 national presentations.



**Dr. Steven Wininger**

**Department of Psychology  
Co-Department Head and Professor, Educational Psychology,  
Sport Psychology and Motivation**

Steven Wininger earned a B.A. in Psychology and Philosophy from Georgetown College and an M.A. in Applied Experimental Psychology from WKU. His Ph.D. was in Educational Psychology with a major in sport psychology from Florida State University. He has been at WKU since 2001. He teaches courses in educational psychology, motivation, and sport psychology. He has presented over 100 research presentations and has more than 20 peer-reviewed publications.



# Retirements

Carolyn Hunt, Educational Administration, Leadership & Research (EALR) Office Associate for 16 and a half years, and Dr. Ric Keaster, EALR professor for 12 years, were honored by College of Education and Behavioral Sciences dean Dr. Sam Evans. Dr. Evans presented Carolyn and Ric with a gift of appreciation for their many years of service, noting how a generation of aspiring and practicing school leaders have been touched by their contributions to WKU.



# MAKE A GIFT

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For more information on how to make a gift, please contact Jessica Carver at (270) 745-2342 or by e-mail at [jessica.carver@wku.edu](mailto:jessica.carver@wku.edu).

\*All gifts are tax deductible.

# CEBS Fall Fest!

September 17, 2014, Gary Ransdell Hall







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## Wedge Distinguished Lecture

Dr. Barbara Kerr, University of Kansas

"Creativity and STEM"

**February 9, 2015**

Gary Ransdell Hall Auditorium, Room 1074  
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

**February 10, 2015**

Knicely Conference Center  
8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

For more information, contact The Center for Gifted Studies, (270) 745-6323 or [gifted@wku.edu](mailto:gifted@wku.edu).

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## Boyd-Lubker Visiting Scholars Program

Dr. Peter Northouse, Western Michigan University

In 2000, the Boyd-Lubker Visiting Scholar Program was created through a gift by Drs. Bobbie and Lynn Lubker in memory of her parents, Dr. and Mrs. George Boyd. The program provides resources for bringing to campus each spring a scholar who will both give a general audience presentation and also meet with various campus groups and the community.

Date and time to be determined. For more information, please contact Dr. Leyla Said Zhuhadar, [leyla.zhuhadar@wku.edu](mailto:leyla.zhuhadar@wku.edu).

# UPCOMING EVENTS